

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 696

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of the Honorable James Jarvis II, Senior United States District Judge.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of the Honorable James Jarvis II, who so ably served the people of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Judge Jarvis was remembered by his colleagues and close friends as a dedicated and highly respected jurist and as a man of great integrity with a warm and caring personality; and

WHEREAS, James Jarvis II was born in Knoxville on February 28, 1937, and moved to West Miller's Cove in Walland when his parents purchased the Blackberry Farm and Inn; he graduated from Maryville High School and earned his law degree from the University of Tennessee in 1960; and

WHEREAS, upon his admittance to the bar, Mr. Jarvis went into practice first with his father and later into private practice in 1960; he remained in private practice until he was appointed as judge of the Law and Equity Court for Blount County in 1972, a position he held for five years; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, James Jarvis II was elected as judge of the 30th Judicial Circuit Court in Blount County, a position he held until 1984, when President Ronald Reagan appointed him United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Judge Jarvis served in the newly-created second judge position in the Eastern District; U.S. Attorney Russ Dedrick recalled that Judge Jarvis tried very important cases involving public corruption, corrupt law enforcement, and major drug cases, adding, "He was fair. He sought out justice. He had a great deal of compassion, but, at the same time, he was very stern."; and

WHEREAS, one of the highlights of his judicial service occurred while serving as a chief judge; in spearheading the government's acquisition of the Whittle Communications building for

a new federal courthouse in downtown Knoxville, he saved taxpayers millions of dollars that otherwise would have been spent on the construction of a new building; and

WHEREAS, Judge James Jarvis II was a respected member of the Federal Judges Association and the Tennessee Judicial Conference, of which he stood as President in 1983 and 1984, and he also served on the executive committee of the Tennessee Trial Judges Association; and

WHEREAS, active in his community, Judge Jarvis was a member of the Boards of Advisers of the UT College of Law and the Great Smoky Mountains Conservation Association and was a member of the Board of Directors of Maryville College, the Board of the Detoxification Rehabilitation Institute of Knoxville, and the Board of the Metropolitan Knoxville YMCA.; and

WHEREAS, Judge Jarvis is survived by his wife, former Knox County General Sessions Court Judge Gail Harris Jarvis, and former wives Martha Stapleton Jarvis and Pam Duncan Miller, who are the mothers of his five children; he was the proud father of James Jarvis III, Leslie Prior, Ann Pruitt, Kathryn Jarvis, and Louise Flynn, and grandfather of four grandchildren and one stepgrandchild. He is also survived by a sister, Kathryn Jones; and

WHEREAS, described by those who knew him best as a proud Blount Countian, an avid fisherman and hunter, a committed environmentalist, and a very wise and caring man, Judge Jarvis will be sorely missed; and

WHEREAS, James Jarvis II leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the extraordinary life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of the Honorable James Jarvis II, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Judge Jarvis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the family of Judge Jarvis, with this final clause omitted from such copy.